

FRASER VALLEY COLLEGE
FACULTY & STAFF ASSOCIATION

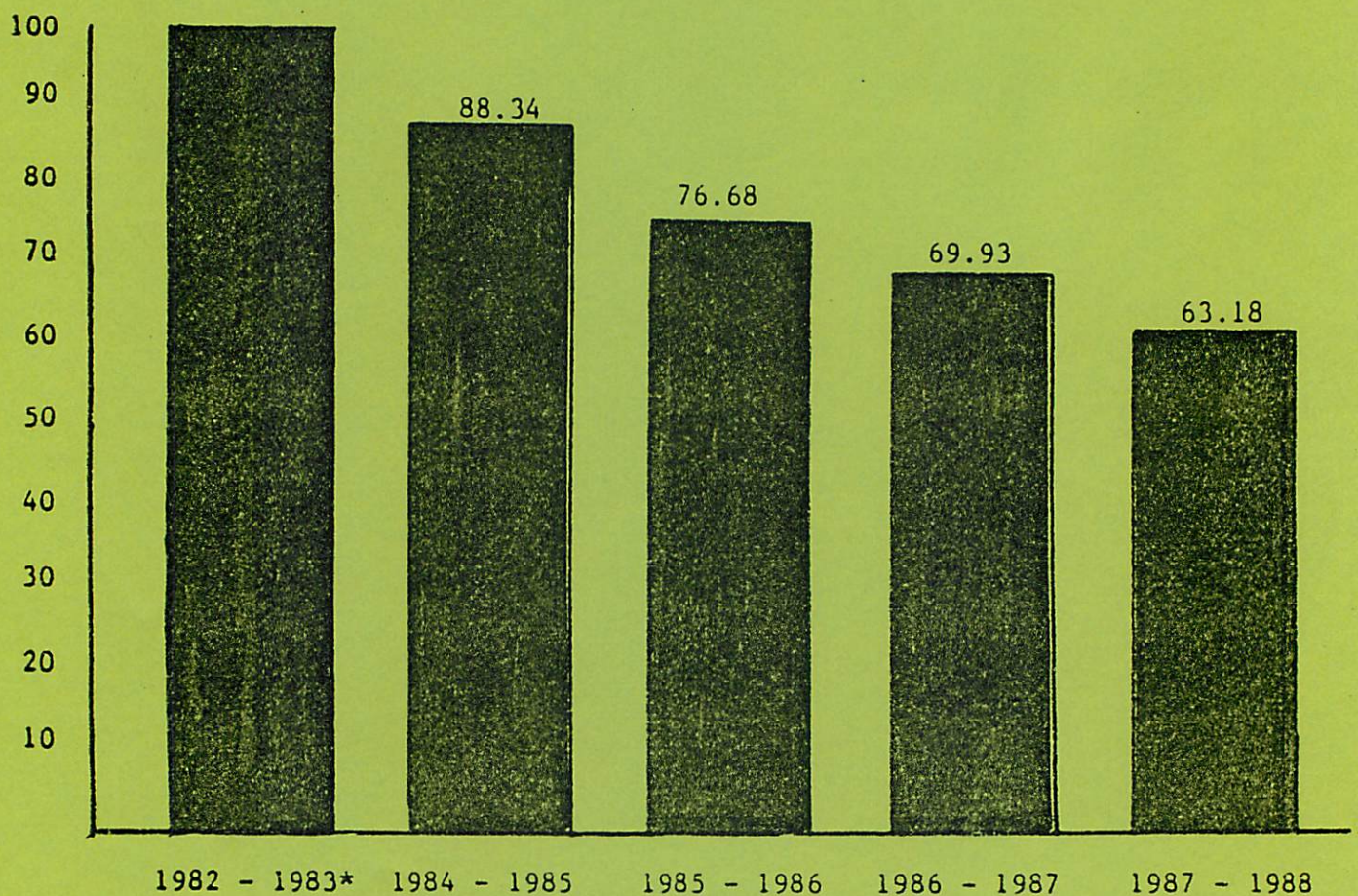
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8/85

JUNE, 1985

FUNDING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION IN B.C.

REDUCTION IN DOLLARS AVAILABLE TO FUND INSTRUCTION IN THE COLLEGE SYSTEM
1982 - 1983 = 100 %



SOURCE: Ministry of Education, Unit Value Sheet

* Includes 5% estimate for inflation

* 1982 - 1983 base year for comparison

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To all FSA members:

This is the eighth and last newsletter for this year, so we have created a quiz (page 7) which you can practice on all your friends and family to make sure they are gloomily well-informed on the state of education in this province.

Things we wish to remind you of:

- * We need two members - 1 staff, 1 faculty - for the P.D. committee.
- * We always need Shop Stewards. A prayer well-suited for them is printed on page 4.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the FSA was held in Chilliwack on Wednesday, May 15, at 3.00 pm and was well attended.

All reports were received and the budget was accepted.

The motion from executive regarding a limit of 3 consecutive years on any person serving in any one Executive position was rejected.

An increase in FSA dues to 1% was approved.

The C-IEA increase and the FSA's joining the C-IEA defence fund were both approved. For the time being these contributions will be met from surplus funds, in part those generated by the fee increase.

The FSA donations for 1984-85 were:

Day-care start-up	\$5,000
Social Service Students	100
College of New Caledonia (strike)	<u>1,300</u>
	<u>\$6,400</u>

The results for the positions of Agreements Chair and Contract Chair have been counted. The results of a very close election are:

SCOTT FAST
VIRGINIA COOKE

AGREEMENTS CHAIR
CONTRACT CHAIR

POST SECONDARY FUNDING

DID YOU KNOW THAT the Federal contribution to Post Secondary funding has risen to 74.8% in 1985-86 from 59.2% while the Province's contribution has decreased from 40.8% to 25.2%?

What happened to the rest of B.C.'s contribution?

DID YOU NOTICE THIS ITEM?

The "winners" in a battle of ideas often determine the direction and limits of government economic and social policy. And when only one side is putting forward ideas, they end up dominating the political debate.

The Fraser Institute, with its right-wing agenda, has flooded the media and public consciousness for the past several years. One can hardly open a newspaper, turn on the radio, or watch a newscast without reading or seeing their ideas being given credibility.

In order to offer some alternatives and provide some balance in ideas being put forward, a number of people got together last year to form an organization called the Pacific Group for Policy Alternatives.

In its first year of operation, the Pacific Group published a number of influential papers, including studies of the B.C. government's finances prepared by the B.C. Economic Policy Institute at UBC. These papers demonstrated that the public was being misled on the state of the government's budget situation, and that not only is there no need for the current level of restraint, but that it is creating harmful economic consequences.

Building an effective counter to the Fraser Institute - one which provides ideas and policies which encourage a socially responsible government and populace - will require some time and much effort.

Individuals interested in joining the Pacific Group or in getting more information about it, can write to Pacific Group, c/o 22 East 8th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5T 1R4.

Reprinted from B.C. Bulletin.

FUNDING FORMULA

DID YOU KNOW THAT the funding formula, now being used in the Province, is calculated on an average teacher's salary?

The lower the salary the lower the funding amount.

EDUCATION BUDGET

DID YOU KNOW THAT in the past, 33% of the government's budget went to education? At present ONLY 21% is earmarked for schools.

CLASS SIZE VS. PUPIL TEACHER RATIO

DID YOU KNOW THAT class size is not the same as pupil teacher ratio that the Ministry uses in its formula?

DID YOU KNOW THAT everyone with a teaching certificate working for the school district is counted in calculating the pupil teacher ratio even if that person does not enroll a class?

Class size, however, is the number of students in the classroom with the teacher.

SUMMARIZING SHORT-SIGHTED POLICIES

If people only knew, said President Petch of UVic, that the operating grant per weighted full-time B.C. student had dropped from \$1,750 in 1971/72 to \$1,200 today in real dollar terms while expenditure per student in the public schools increased by 50-60 percent...that 80 percent of the funds for B.C. universities came from Ottawa...that the B.C. participation rate in postsecondary education (outside of Newfoundland, which is the lowest by a very substantial margin) is the lowest in the country...that the percentage of students attending university from areas outside Vancouver and Victoria was 7 percent last year and declining, compared to 16 percent from the two cities...that the government has stated that until tenured professors are fired, the cuts will continue...that to come up to the Ontario and Quebec average would require another 11,000 full-time equivalent students...that in medicine, B.C. brings into the province 4.2 doctors for every one educated locally, to the great detriment of B.C. youth who wish medical careers...that B.C. employs more than the national average of engineers and educates less...that the unemployment rate for university graduates in B.C. is 2/3rds that of college graduates (4 percent compared to 7 percent)...that a relatively recent graduate practising law in Victoria earns more than the dean of law, who is now Vice-President of the university. The quotations are from an article in 'MONDAY MAGAZINE', Victoria, 20-26 Sept. 1984.

VICTORY FOR DR. MCGEER IN B.C.?

(Reprinted from the Association of Ontario Faculties)

Since President Petch gave his interview, the AUCC has announced that first year enrolments in B.C. have dropped 18 percent at UBC, 19 percent at UVic and 6 percent at Simon Fraser. The percentage of those who were accepted by the universities but declined to come increased by 65 percent. UBC has raised tuition by 33 percent, UVic by 26 percent, at the demand of the minister responsible for higher education. Furthermore, B.C. abolished all grants to students at the same time. All this occurred during the worst economic crisis in the province since the Depression, which means that many more parents cannot afford to send their children. The vision of the Socred government that only those from Point Grey should go to university is that much closer to fruition.

THE SHOP STEWARD'S PRAYER

(borrowed from the CNC Newsletter)

Grant me O Lord, the genius to explain
to my Brothers the policies and plans
of our great Union--
Even though no-one explains them to me.

Give to me the intelligence, the wisdom
and the knowledge to understand the
new techniques applicable to our in-
dustry so that I may evaluate their
impact on my Brothers--

Even though no-one shows me these tech-
niques, no-one shows me how to eval-
uate them, and no-one is quite sure
if they are, in fact, of any value at
all.

Give to me understanding that I may
Forgive the apathetic member,
Curb the over-ambitious member, and
Accept the views of the member who does
nothing until I have done something
and then tells me how I should have
done it and what I should have done.

Make me formidable in debate, logical in
argument, fearless in confrontation;
lawyer, actor, mathematician, sage,
philosopher, sociologist and econo-
mist; pleading, cajoling, threaten-
ing, belabouring, so that I may make
The best of a good case and
A good case from no case at all.

Teach me, O Lord, to stand with both
feet firmly on the ground
Even though I haven't a leg to stand on.

O Lord, let my Brothers see the future
as a great Brotherhood of men and,
when they at last believe in it,
Give me the physical strength to stop
the punch-ups that ensue.

Lord, I am a Shop Steward; I pray you,
in your Infinite Wisdom see
My need for all these things and, in
your Great Mercy, grant them to me.

And when I have them, Lord - MOVE OVER.

DENNISON ON RESTRAINT

John Dennison's new article for College Canada, 'Restraint and Reality', points out that while restraint made the government financially unable to pay for all programs at the pre-recession level, the decision about what was to suffer was a political decision, based on its sense of what voters want.

Why was it political sense to target the post-secondary system?

Was it because colleges did not have community support or growing enrolments? Because they did not contribute to economic growth? Had not been accountable? Were overextended?

"The generous wage and salary agreements" had been made in the whole public sector and do not explain why the colleges and institutes were a particular target.

Nevertheless, during 1982-85 when federal funding in current dollars increased from \$420.1 million to \$477.7 million, the provincial operating grants for post-secondary, non-university institutions fell from \$211.9 million to \$185.0 million.

During this period full time enrolments increased gradually in spite of increasing tuition fees. The reason for reduced funding was not lower enrolments. If the government reduced funding to the school system because of declining enrolment, it would be logical to assume they would increase funding where enrolment increased. Not so.

British Columbia does not have an inordinately high post-secondary participation rate; enrolment rates for full-time first year college and university students were (as reported in 1981) still almost 3 times as high for Grade 12 graduates in metropolitan communities as for those in the rural areas.

The Goldfarb polls suggest significant public support for colleges, partly because they are seen as contributing employable graduates to the work force. The polls, which were conducted in Vancouver, showed that 74% of the respondents believed a university education was a benefit. The reason for reduced funding was not lack of community support.

Percent Unemployed

Level of Education

<u>Completed</u>	<u>British Columbia</u>	<u>Canada</u>
0 - 8 years	17.3	11.8
High School	15.6	12.5
Some Post-Secondary	12.1	10.3
Post-secondary Diploma	11.8	8.3
University Degree	<u>10.3</u>	<u>6.8</u>
TOTAL	<u>14.1</u>	<u>10.9</u>

(Source Statistics Canada: The Labour Force, Ottawa, Catalogue No. 71-001)

The unemployment rate among graduates for career technical programs in B.C. colleges was 9.5%, i.e. below the provincial average. Transfer students who had not transferred to university showed an involuntary unemployment rate of 5.8%. This is an economic contribution surely, and employment opportunity is only one of the benefits of more education.

B.C. colleges do more short, long, annual and 5 year plans, more institutional evaluations, more reporting back, than those anywhere else. So reduced funding is not due to lack of accountability.

The Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan governments, also in a deficit situation, perceive the colleges as instruments of economic recovery. But in B.C., where colleges can "document their role in providing access to further education for those traditionally excluded from the university sector," cutbacks in financing, increased tuition, reduced student assistance, and the elimination of programs will restrict post-secondary education to the children of the privileged. If access to education is not open to all "then individual life choices beyond schooling must also remain unequal. To the extent that access to higher education is contingent upon social attributes unrelated to academic ability, such as region or class, then precious resources are wasted by excluding gifted people."

The most insidious effects of cutbacks are to discourage students and deplete the energy and creativity of college faculty, says Dennison.

"Eventually the individuals most hurt are those who need the college services most."

QUIZ

1. What proportion of high-school graduates in B.C. enrol in post-secondary education?
2. What proportion of high school graduates in Japan go into post-secondary education?
3. What 2 Canadian provinces in Canada have the lowest proportion of students in post-secondary education?
4. What percentage of University graduates now working in B.C. received their degrees from B.C. Universities?
5. Which provincial minister is reported to have said that importing graduates was cheaper than producing our own?
6. How much does it cost for a student to go away from home to College or University for a year?
7. What provincial government in Canada allocates the smallest percentage of its total budget to education?
8. What percentage is it?
9. What provincial government in Canada allocates the largest percentage of its total budget to education?
10. Is it true that Federal support to Health & Education has provided more money to the B.C. Government than they have passed on to the Health system and the Education system?

Quotable Quote...

UHLMANN'S RAZOR

When stupidity is a sufficient explanation, there is no need to have recourse to any other.

Michael Uhlmann, Assistant Attorney General.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ:

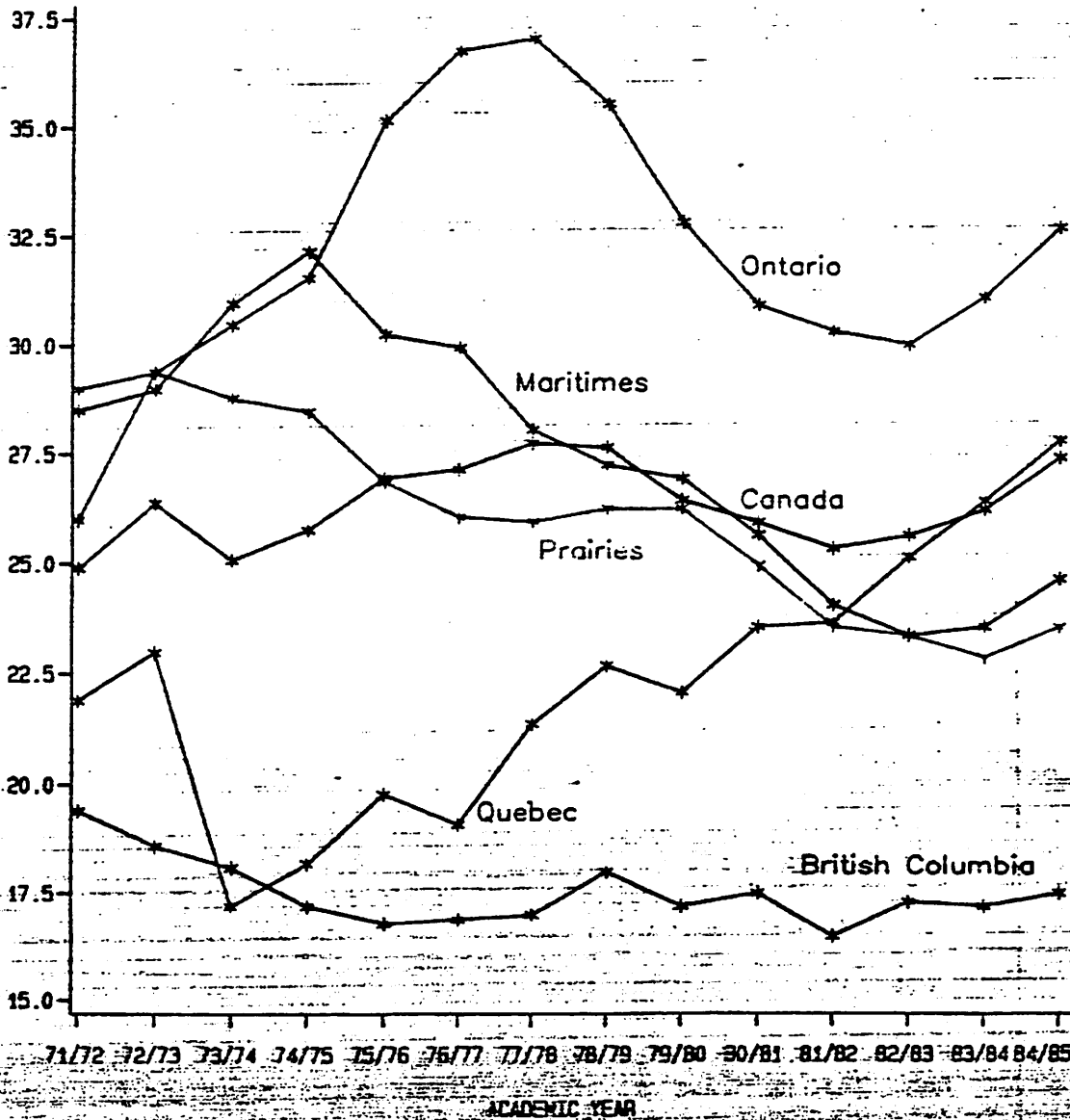
1. 13.5% (Lower mainland post-secondary group)
2. 40%.
3. Newfoundland is lowest. Then B.C.
4. 43%.
5. The Honourable Pat McGeer, Minister of Universities and Technology.
6. About \$7,000 (and tuition is still rising)
7. B.C.
8. 15.5%.
9. Newfoundland - 25.3%.
10. Yes, however, the Federal contribution to Post Secondary funding has risen to 74.8% in 1985-86 from 59.2% while the Provinces' contribution has decreased from 40.8% to 25.2%. What happened to the rest of B.C.'s contribution?

ESTIMATES, 85/86

POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES
Classification by Sub-Vote

<u>Est. 84/85</u>		<u>Est. 85/86</u>
\$ 2,484,708	Post-Secondary Management	\$ 2,543,868
2,116,153	Post-Secondary Programs	1,918,345
252,732,000	Operating Contributions - Colleges & Institutes (net of recoveries)	240,095,400
852,112	Administrative Support Contributions	809,506
47,798,400	Capital Debt Servicing Contributions (net of recoveries)	50,359,210
2,500,000	Student Financial Aid (net of recoveries)	3,700,000
-	Colleges and Institutes Adjustments Program	12,679,206
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<u>\$308,483,373</u>	TOTAL VOTE	<u>\$312,105,535</u>

Bachelors Degrees Per 1000 Youth Population



Sources: Degrees, Advance Statistics of Education, StatCan 81-220.
18-24 Population, Class of 2001, StatCan.

Institutional Analysis
University of Victoria
November 9, 1984